



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

SURFACE BLASTER

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Surface Blaster*

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations and to record blasting examination information concerning blasting operations at surface mines.

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- One year blasting experience on a surface mine under the direction of a certified surface blaster or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Certification, if required by law. Miners who have Virginia coal mining experience prior to January 1, 1996, and wish to obtain general miner certification must meet BCME requirement 4 VAC 25-20-255 A.1.2.3. or attend required general miner training.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
■ Mined Land Reclamation Rules & Regs. (DMLR) (MR)	20
■ Blasting Practices (BP)	20
■ Electric Blasting (EB)	20
■ Explosive Products (EP)	20
■ Explosive Safety Procedures (ES)	40
■ Rules & Regulations (DM) (RR)	20
■ First Aid (MM)	20
■ Surface Blasting Record Practical (BR)	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

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| ■ Title 30 CFR | ■ Surface Blasters Study Guide |
| ■ Coal Mine Laws of Virginia | ■ DMLR Rules & Regulations |
| ■ BCME Requirements | ■ MSHA (Basic First Aid) Manual 3 |

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***5 year DMLR recertification required**

Revised 06/19/03